National Informatics Centre (NIC) has implemented land records computerisation in 534 districts. NIC in association with Government of Tamilnadu, has also taken up Taluka Office computerisation in Thanjavur district.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Release of Grants for Drought Relief in Andhra Pradesh

3523. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister visited Mahabubnagar in Andhra Pradesh to study the prevailing drought like conditions there;

(b) if so, the grants sanctioned towards drought relief; and

(c) by when the grant would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Calamity Relief Committee approved an assistance of Rs. 75.36 crore to Andhra Pradesh from the National Fund for Calamity Relief in the wake of drought. The amount was released on 31.3.2000. This amount was released in addition to the amount released under calamity Relief Fund (CRF) i.e. Rs. 107.69 crore as Central share. First instalment of Central share of CRF to the State for 2000-01 amounting to Rs. 38.89 crore has also been released.

Regional Co-ordination Centre on prawn Culture and Asian Cat Fish

3524. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar of ICAR had propopsed in 1995 for establishment of Regional Co-ordination centre for Fresh Water Prawn Culture and Regional Co-ordination Research project on Asian Cat Fish;

(b) if so, what are reasons for long deal in setting up the projects; and

(c) by when these projects would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir. There has been no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Institutes under Agriculture Research

†3525. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural research system set-up in the country is of largest size in the world;

(b) if not, the number of institutes under this system alongwith the number of employees and researchers thereof, separately; and

(c) the annual expenditure thereof alongwith success achieved by each institute during the last three years in research etc. by each institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No. of Institutes 89 No. of Employees 30294 (Scientists 5054 Technicians 8223 + Administrative 5050 Supporting Staff 11967).

(c) The details of expenditure and research achievement are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 88]

Finance Facility for Crop Production

3526. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have the proposal under their consideration that the finance facility to poor farmers of Himachal Pradesh on the lines of the north east states, be given for their crop production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.